

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 7, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 7, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Applicants note that a preliminary amendment was filed May 19, 2004, to correct typographical errors in the specification. Applicants further note that the Examiner has not indicated whether the preliminary amendment was entered. A copy of the preliminary amendment and the return postcard indicating that the Patent Office received the preliminary amendment are attached. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-20 are rejected. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

The abstract is objected to because it contains legal terminology such as "comprise." Applicants have amended the specification to replace "comprising" with "including" and "containing." Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Applicants have amended paragraphs [0030], [0044], and [0074] to correct typographical errors. Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,627,532 B1. Applicants are submitting a terminal disclaimer in a separate paper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a

detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)